



Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN



CASA

CASA of Yavapai County October 2012 Newsletter

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

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SAVE THE DATE

~~~~~  
Psychological Evaluations

Dr. Russell Wagner

10/12/12 (see page 7)

~~~~~  
Savor the Flavour

11/2/12 5:30—9:30

Hassayampa Inn (see page 5)

~~~~~  
National Adoption Day

11/17/12

Details to follow

~~~~~  
CASA In-Service Training

11/19/12

(see page 10)

~~~~~  
CASA Holiday Party

12/7/12 5:00 ~ 7:00

Details to follow  
~~~~~

NORTH ELEVATION



ENTRY PERSPECTIVE VIEW

Yavapai County Juvenile Justice Center

October 26, 2012

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

1100 Prescott Lakes Parkway





M	T	W	T	F
1	2 FDC ~ 2:30	3	4 Baby Case Support meeting 10:00	5 Best for Babies Court Teams meeting 10:00
8 C for K Board meeting 4:00	9	10	11 Jane's Case Support, 11:00	12 Dr. Wagner, Psychological Evaluations 9:00, (see page 7)
15	16 FDC ~ 2:30	17 Case Support with Mike Wade, 11:00	18 Time for Teens (monthly meeting) 9:30	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31 Halloween		

October at a glance

10/2 & 16 Family Drug Court, Courthouse Division 1 Courtroom, 2:30 ~ 5:00

10/4 Baby Case Support meeting, Courthouse, Room 307, 10:00

10/5 Best for Babies Court Teams meeting, Fair Street, 10:00

10/8 C for K Board Meeting, Visiting Center, United Methodist Church 4:00 ~ 5:00

10/11 Jane's Case Support, Yavapai Title, 123 N. Montezuma, 11:00

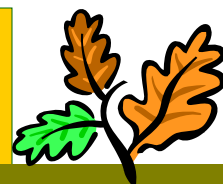
10/12 Psychological Evaluations, Dr. Wagner, Board of Supervisors building on Fair St. 9:00—11:30

10/17 Case Support with Mike Wade, Yavapai Title, 123 N. Montezuma, 11:00

10/18 Time for Teens monthly meeting, Yavapai Title, 123 N. Montezuma 9:30 ~ 11:30



Yavapai CASA Calendar



M	T	W	T	F
			1 Baby Case Support meeting ~ 10:00	2 Best for Babies Court Teams meeting ~ 10:00 Savor the Flavour (see page 5)
5	6 FDC ~ 2:30	7	8 Jane's Case Support ~ 11:00	9
12 Holiday ~ Veteran's Day C for K Board meeting ~ 4:00	13	14 Case Support with Mike Wade ~ 11:00	15 Time for Teens (monthly meeting) ~ 9:30	16
19 CASA Training (see page 10)	20 FDC ~ 2:30	21	22 Happy Thanksgiving	23 Holiday ~ Office Closed
26	27	28	29	30

November at a glance ...

- 11/1 Baby Case Support meeting, Courthouse, Room 307, 10:00
- 11/2 Best for Babies Court Teams meeting, Fair Street, 10:00
- 11/2 Savor the Flavour, Hassayampa Inn, 5:30 pm (see page 5)
- 11/6 & 20 Family Drug Court, Courthouse Division 1 Courtroom, 2:30 ~ 5:00
- 11/8 Jane's Case Support, Yavapai Title, 123 N. Montezuma, 11:00
- 11/12 Veteran's Day Holiday ~ office closed
- 11/12 C for K Board meeting, Visiting Center, United Methodist Church 4:00 ~ 5:00
- 11/14 Case Support with Mike Wade, Yavapai Title, 123 N. Montezuma, 11:00
- 11/15 Time for Teens monthly meeting, Yavapai Title, 123 N. Montezuma 9:30 ~ 11:30
- 11/19 CASA In-Service Training with Kim McIntyre of WYGC and Vivian Man of Open Inn, 10:00 ~ 12:00, room 307. (see pg 10)
- 11/22 & 23 Office closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday

TIME FOR TEENS

The Time 4 Teens coalition has been busy this month...

TRANSITIONAL YOUTH INDEX (TYI):

We are currently revising the Transitional Youth Index (TYI) to make it more user friendly on-line. Our current plans also include getting the TYI out to all the area service providers and CPS workers. We also are planning to have the TYI placed on the CASA web site.

Judge Mackey has recently started requesting CPS case workers to complete the TYI for the teens they work with who have case plans of Independent Living services, Adoption, or are close to aging out of the system.

BROCHURE:

The Time 4 Teens coalition is also currently working on a marketing brochure which we hope to have completed and ready for publication next month.

LOGO:

We are also exploring the idea of a logo for the T4T coalition. We will be hosting a contest for teens to develop the logo. The winning entry will be awarded a prize for their efforts. This logo will be used on all T4T brochures and documents.

CHANGES:

And finally, sadly, we have to report that Christa Lasater is stepping down from her duties as the Time 4 Teens chair. Christa will remain an energetic advocate for teens and will continue to participate with the T4T group as much as possible. We thank Christa for her leadership, wisdom and continued devotion and energy to the group.

Mike Wade, CASA coordinator will take over chair person duties until someone has been identified to take on this challenge. Please contact Mike at 928-777-7900 if you have interest in becoming the chair or would like to join the coalition.



The Time 4 Teens coalition meets the 3rd Thursday of each month from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM at the Yavapai Title Building, downtown Prescott on Montezuma.

Yavapai CASA for Kids, Inc.

Please consider attending:

"Savor the Flavour" of the Titanic (100th anniversary of the ship's sailing)


4th anniversary of the Prescott Valley Rotary Club "Savor the Flavour" Fundraising Event

Event to Benefit 5 local non-profits, including Yavapai CASA for Kids


Friday, November 2, 5:30 - 9:30 PM at the Hassayampa Inn.

\$50 per ticket (includes 2 wine-tasting tickets, sumptuous buffet of hors d'oeuvres including a roast beef carving station, and Irish music by John Good)

To purchase tickets and learn more about the event, go to www.pvrsavortheflavor.com

**PRESCOTT VALLEY
ROTARY CLUB**

4th Annual
100th Anniversary
**SAVOR THE FLAVOUR of the
TITANIC**



Friday, November 2nd, 2012
Hassayampa Inn
Prescott
5:30 pm ~ 9:30 pm






Featuring
Food & Music
of the Titanic's
maiden voyage

*Celtic music by
John Good*

*Special menus
reminiscent of
the food
served aboard*

*Vintage attire preferred:
Tails & Cocktail attire
of the era*

Proceeds Benefit:
4-H
Boy Scouts
Casa for Kids
Interact
RYLA
and other Prescott Valley
youth groups



Book your passage today!
1st Class \$100 (Limited seating)
2nd Class \$75
3rd Class \$50
Pay online via PayPal to
prescottvalleyrotary@gmail.com
or by check to
Prescott Valley Rotary Foundation
PO Box 26456
Prescott Valley, AZ 86312-6546

Questions? Contact:
Nathan Wiggins
mttitanicbuff@gmail.com
(775) 338-3696
Eric Denniston
eric@dennergroupp.com
(858) 603-2047

Details:
Visit our website
<http://www.pvrsavortheflavor.com>

The Rotary Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt organization whose mission is to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace. Contributions are deductible as charitable contributions to the fullest extent permitted by law. No goods or services were or will be provided by the Rotary Foundation in exchange for this contribution.

**PRESCOTT VALLEY
ROTARY CLUB**

Passage Amenities

1st Class \$100
Board at the Arizona Room on Gurley St.
Private Seated Dinner
Classical music entertainment
Special menu
4 wine tasting tickets per person

2nd Class \$75
Board at the Marina Room on Marina St.
Buffet Carvers Station
Heavy Hors D'Oeuvres
Celtic Music by John Good
3 wine tasting tickets per person

3rd Class \$50
Board at the Marina Room on Marina St.
Buffet Carvers Station
Heavy Hors D'Oeuvres
Celtic Music by John Good
2 wine tasting tickets per person

SPECIAL FEATURES
Silent Auction
Wine from Verde Valley wineries
Special address by Gov. W. P. Hunt,
first governor of Arizona

Pay online via PayPal to
prescottvalleyrotary@gmail.com
or by check to
Prescott Valley Rotary Club
PO Box 26456
Prescott Valley, AZ 86312-6546

Featuring
Food & Music
of the Titanic's
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youth groups

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<http://www.pvrsavortheflavor.com>

Yavapai CASA for Kids, Inc.

*Yavapai CASA for Kids,
Inc.*

*Welcomes Vista Volunteer
Yasmine Bethea*



The CASA for Kids Board is proud to introduce Medina Yasmine Bethea, our VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) volunteer who is filling the position of Program Coordinator for the Board.

Yasmine arrived in Prescott from her home in Minneapolis, Minnesota in mid-July and will be with us for at least a year. She is one of 19 VISTA and AmeriCorps volunteers working in Yavapai County under the auspice of Serve Yavapai at Prescott College.

You may have met Yasmine already, as she has been attending dependency hearings, CASA trainings and the CASA Time for Teens meetings. While in Prescott, Yasmine will be working with the Family Visitation Center, the Christmas gift drive and volunteer recruitment for CASA for Kids as well as developing fundraising opportunities for our organization.

Yasmine is a Midwest native who trekked all the way to Prescott, Arizona in order to volunteer as a VISTA for Yavapai CASA for Kids. Her previous employment was as a hospital patient advocate helping families apply for assistance programs, and she was continuing her education working for a degree in Sociology and Psychology at University of Minnesota. While here in Arizona she will continue taking on-line courses toward her goal of Counseling Psychology. Last year in Minnesota Yasmine initiated her own non-profit organization called Project Maryam ~ providing advocacy and counseling services for women and children of all ages who seek aide in obtaining justice in non-legal matters including domestic violence and "Woman Within International" educational opportunities. Project Maryam seeks to inspire and empower women and children to become positive contributing factors within their households, communities, and society in general.

Yasmine believes that working with CASA for Kids provides the perfect opportunity for her to strengthen her skills in management, grant writing and fundraising in the non-profit arena so that she will be better prepared to give back to her community via Project Maryam.

Be sure to say "Hi!" and welcome Yasmine when you meet her. Her office is located in Laura Taylor's office located on 100 Union street in Prescott, Arizona. She can also be reached on her cell phone at (952) 374-7109.

Yavapai County CASA Program

Presents

A Morning with Dr. Wagner

Friday, October 12, 2012

9 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

Board of Supervisors Room, 1015 Fair Street, Prescott AZ 86301

Board of Supervisors Room, 10 South 6th Street, Cottonwood, AZ 86326

(Via Telecast from Prescott)

Please join us for this informative session with Dr. Russell Wagner on the topic of Psychological Evaluations.

This training opportunity is open to CASAs, CPS, WYGC, CFSS, Attorneys, and all other Dependency and foster care related community agencies.

There is no cost to attend this training.

We are anticipating a large group of attendees and space could become limited. Please RSVP as soon as possible to:

Msmith2@courts.az.gov



Yavapai County CASA Program

**120 S. Cortez, room 402
Prescott, AZ 86303
928-771-3165**

**2840 N. Commonwealth Dr.
Camp Verde, AZ 86322
928-554-8900**

Coordinator's Corner

Despite ICWA, Court Rules Navajo Child Will Remain With Non-Indian Guardians

The Arizona Court of Appeals has ruled that a Navajo child can stay with his non-native, non-relative guardians, despite a federal law that directs otherwise.

The appeals court, in an August 28 ruling, upheld a juvenile court decision that found good cause to deviate from the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). The act gives placement preference of adopted American Indian children first to family members, second to members of the same tribe and third to members of another tribe. In this case, the court found that the bond formed between the 2-year-old child—identified as “Z” in court documents to ensure privacy—and his guardians weighed more heavily than other factors. The court also severed the rights of the biological parents.

“While the interest of the [Navajo] Nation and the Congressionally-presumed interest of Z in maintaining his heritage weighed against a finding of good cause to deviate from the ICWA’s preferences, on this record we cannot say the court erred in weighing all these interests,” the appeals court wrote in a unanimous ruling. Attorneys familiar with the case are calling it a violation of the ICWA. “It’s contrary to the majority of the cases and of the intention of the act,” said Craig Dorsay, a Portland, Oregon-based attorney who previously worked on the Navajo Nation and has worked with thousands of ICWA-related cases. “It’s a concerning case,” Dorsay said. “The majority opinion states what I would call an anti-Indian child welfare case.”

The child was “rescued” from his parents’ home at the age of 1 month, the ruling states. A petition was filed against the biological mother, alleging that the child was living in a drug house infested with cockroaches and had not been bathed or taken to a doctor since birth. The courts were unable to locate the mother to determine whether the ICWA applied, the ruling states. Z was placed with the brother and sister-in-law of the alleged father. A paternity test later proved the man was not the biological father and that Z was living with non-relatives. No other father has been identified. By then, the child had spent 11 months with his adoptive family, and the Arizona Department of Economic Security had established that the family provided good care to the child. The DES also reported that the tribe initially failed to offer alternative homes consistent with the ICWA. Although the biological mother eventually produced the names of six relatives who could care for the child, the DES advised the court that good cause existed to deviate from placement preferences.

“Z had attached and bonded with the family,” the juvenile court found. “Z would suffer severe distress if he was removed from that placement. ...Z had been in the current placement almost his entire life where he caught up on developmental milestones, and no party offered alternative homes consistent with ICWA.” The juvenile court ruling also found that the caretakers, who are certified to adopt Z, agreed to expose the boy to his Navajo heritage, including working with the boy’s relatives to ensure he grew up with access to Navajo culture, ceremonies and language. “Essentially, these are the only parents the child has ever known,” the juvenile court stated. The appeals court upheld the findings, despite arguments from the Navajo Nation that the ruling be reversed. The Nation argued that the court did not properly seek alternative homes with family or tribal members, that evidence suggesting Z will experience distress if moved from his home is lacking and that Z will only be properly exposed to his Navajo culture if he is in a traditional Navajo home.

Continued on page 9...

Coordinator's Corner

ICWA continued....

The Nation also argued that the sister of the boy's maternal grandmother was willing to take him, ensuring he stayed with his biological family and was exposed to his culture. The appeals court disagreed with those arguments. "The crux of the juvenile court's concern was with moving Z from the only family he had known for the vast majority of his life to a family he had never met," the ruling states. "As the court made clear in its ruling, moving Z after 15 months would have a devastating effect on him." Dorsay disagrees with the decision and with many of the legal and social proceedings of the case. "In almost every [ICWA] case, you get the argument that the child has bonded and it would harm the child to remove it from the home," he said. "If that were the prevailing standard, the ICWA would be worthless. Every child bonds with his caretakers. I think a lot of the time the courts are talking about the bonding of the parents with the child. Any move creates difficulty, but children can bond again." Dorsay said the court's ruling encourages dishonesty in adoption. "If the courts are going to rule in favor of a bond, that's encouragement for parents not to file under the ICWA until a bond has been created," he said. "In the adoptive setting, attorneys sometimes recommend not filing with the ICWA so a bond can occur. This sort of ruling encourages violations of the ICWA." The ruling comes one month after another state court, in a similar case, ruled in favor of the birth family. The South Carolina Supreme Court on July 26 denied a request from a non-native, non-relative adoptive couple to keep a Cherokee toddler. Baby Veronica, 2, was returned to her biological father in Oklahoma, although the only parents she ever knew already had legally adopted her. The court ruled that the adoptive family and the child likely bonded, but that the ICWA is clear about giving placement preference to the biological family. "In the South Carolina case, the tribe is painted as the villain," Dorsay said. "But you have to remember the tribe is interested in the health and welfare of the child."

The ICWA was designed to preserve the relationship a child has with its relatives and its tribe, Dorsay said. Although non-native adoptive families can promise to expose children to ceremonies and culture, there is no substitute for immersion. "In the Indian community, grandparents, aunts and uncles, they all share equal responsibility for the child, and the child's life is enriched by this," he said. "Unfortunately, like in the Arizona case, not nearly enough effort was made to find suitable homes with relatives. The act was made to utilize the extended families. If the act was followed to begin with, we wouldn't have these cases."

Rulings like the one in the South Carolina case, where the adoptive parents may have means and clout, can encourage people to advocate for changes to the ICWA, Dorsay said. The Act, however, simply provides criteria that state courts must consider when making decisions, Terry Cross, executive director of the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA), wrote in an email. "Our role at the NICWA is to help ensure that courts know about the law and that families know their rights under the law," Cross wrote. "It is the goal of ICWA and the intent of NICWA to support the placement of Indian children in safe and healthy Indian homes wherever possible."

Coordinator's Corner

DID YOU KNOW?

- Judge Anna Young is now hearing the Verde dependency cases in Camp Verde
- The Prescott Courthouse will soon be getting a new elevator
- Yavapai County sent 8 new applicants to the Advocacy Academy training in September

The data below is compiled through the end of 2010 unless otherwise noted.

- There are nearly 9000 households with children under the age of 5 in them in Yavapai County and of those:
 - 65% are married couple households
 - 22% are single mother households
 - 13% are single father households
- In Yavapai County 12% of young children are being raised by their grandparents.
- In Yavapai County 1,829 babies were born (2011) and the number has declined each year for the last 5 years
- 25% of young children in Yavapai County live in poverty
- In Yavapai County (2011) unemployment is 9.9%
- In Yavapai County 46% of young children have all parents in the workforce
- In Yavapai County 12% of babies are born to mothers 14-19 years old
- In Yavapai County 24% of women giving birth do NOT have a high school diploma
- In Yavapai County only 7% of women giving birth have a Bachelor's degree or higher
- In Yavapai County only 51% of two-year olds have the recommended vaccines for their age.
 - This represents the LOWEST rate in the state of Arizona.
- 38.9% of families with young children receive food assistance in Yavapai County
- In Yavapai County 22% of children in the 3rd grade do not pass the Reading AIMS

10/1 Nick Vale
10/8 Diana Dalsass
10/8 Judie Helgeson
10/9 Marlene Baird
10/14 Erin Franklin
10/15 Viola Kooiman
10/21 Quinci Castleberry
10/21 Bill Haas
10/31 John Clark



Medication Use in the Arizona Foster Care Population

<http://www.azcourts.gov/casa/Training/ArticlesPublications.aspx>

CASA IN-SERVICE TRAINING

There will be a CASA in-service training on Monday, November 19th at 10:00 A.M. in room 307.

Kim McIntyre from West Yavapai Guidance Clinic will speak on the subject of Mood Disorders and Vivian Man of Open Inn will address Turning Point Shelter and the ILS programs.

Contact Information

CASA of Yavapai County

120 S. Cortez, Rm. 402, Prescott, AZ 86303



If you cannot attend an FCRB, you may e-mail the Board at:

rptfcrb@courts.az.gov

WE'RE ON THE WEB:

www.CASAofYavapaiCounty.org

Yavapai CASA for Kids, Inc.

Serving our Court Protected Children and the CASA Program

Court Appointed Special Advocates

...a child's voice in court

www.yavapaicasaforkids.org

Yavapai CASA for Kids generously donates gift cards (various denominations and designs available) for CASAs to celebrate birthdays, special events, and/or big (or yes, even little) accomplishments with their CASA children. Every foster child can use a little "celebration". In addition, the board provides \$10 gas cards for CASAs that travel long distances to visit their children. Please contact the CASA office for details at 771-3165

CASA of Yavapai County

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Fax: 928-771-3387

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Lynda Ransom, CASA Support Staff
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Kristen Newman, Family Drug Court Coordinator (928) 771-3398
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Yavapai CASA for Kids, Inc.

P.O. Box 12457, Prescott, AZ 86304
(928) 445-0800

www.yavapaicasaforkids.org

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